

1481 of the Journal.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Would you read the amendment, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Higgins would move to amend: (Read the Higgins amendment on page 1481 of the Journal.)

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senators, you have before you this Senators health quiz that I passed out and I did so to make a point and I think it is important that you take this quick health quiz with me. What percent of intermediate care facility nursing homes in Nebraska do not have registered nurses or LPNs on duty 24 hours per day? 31%. 53%. 69%. 42%. If you checked 69% you are right. 69% don't have RNs or LPNs on duty 24 hours a day. Number 2. What percent of the nursing homes in Nebraska do not have an RN or a LPN on duty from eleven o'clock at night until seven in the morning? 2%, 63%, 47%, or 39%. 63% leave the people in the care, custody and control of untrained nurse's aides at this time. What percent of nursing homes in Nebraska do not have an RN or LPN on duty from three in the afternoon till eleven at night? 9%. 16%. 23%. 31%. 31% do not have trained RNs or LPNs from three in the afternoon until eleven at night. If you were placed in a nursing home and needed emergency medical care, what time of day would you want trained help present? 7 to 3. 3 to 11. 11 to 7. At all times, since I can't predict when I could have a medical emergency. This is to point out to you Senators that nurse's aides are the only ones that are there 24 hours a day around the clock. This amendment merely does this. Again in helping the nursing homes as the bill has been amended, it grandfathers in anybody, anybody that walks in off the street and says that I want to be a nurse's aide. It says even though they have never had an ounce of training, they haven't spent an hour in training, a day, they can be a nurse's aide and they can be one of those nurse's aide that is there all alone during those hours when there is no RN and no LPN available. My bill merely says to help the nursing homes, instead of grandfathering in everybody that is working in a nursing home next August when this bill would take effect, we will grandfather in those people who can show the Health Department that they have successfully completed a course of training comparable to that required by this act. Now my friend, Senator Fenger, when he offered this amendment originally grandfathering everybody in said, "Tell me when we don't grandfather everybody in when we license them?" Senator Fenger said he was grandfathered in when they said